

Senators Rap Army Snooping

By Dan Morgan

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A Senate subcommittee yesterday condemned the Army's "massive and unrestrained" surveillance of civilians and civilian political activity during the late 1960s.

The congressional report referred to practices that the Pentagon says have been sharply curtailed since they were disclosed. However, its authors wrote that government "continues to ignore the warning" of domestic spying dangers, and asserted that the only assurances they have that military intelligence files and personnel dossiers were actually destroyed came from the Army.

New aspects of the military's overseas surveillance activities were disclosed last weekend. Documents which are now in Washington indicate that the Army's military intelligence program in West Germany is directed against American civilians and possibly against other foreigners in that country.

Robert Rivkin, an attorney for the Lawyers Military Defense Committee in Heidelberg, said yesterday that he suspects the committee's office there is under surveillance. The committee gives free legal aid to soldiers stationed in West Germany. Rivkin said that he believes that committee may have become a target of military intelligence agents because it has "massive violation of the constitutional rights" of enlisted men in Europe.

According to newspaper stories that appeared last weekend, Army surveillance activities in West Germany have been directed against German church organizations and underground newspapers. Documents which were provided to the Lawyers Military Defense Committee in Washington indicate that wiretapping, direct observation and infiltration have been used. The Defense Department refused Monday

to confirm or deny the stories, but said that all counter-intelligence activities in Germany are in accordance with German law and with German-American agreements.

According to congressional sources yesterday, substantial amounts of additional information concerning the Army's espionage role have recently been turned over to the Senate Armed Services Committee from other Senate sources.

Acting Committee Chairman Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said yesterday that he could not reveal the nature of the material. Symington said, however, that he was deeply concerned about the state of

many as a result of such unrelated factors as the diminished buying power of the dollar overseas, drug abuse, and the "no win" philosophy engendered in the Army by the war in Vietnam. Army officials maintain that these factors have made soldiers an easier target for subversive propaganda from the outside.

The report on Army domestic surveillance was produced by the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, which conducted a 3½-year investigation.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), the subcommittee chairman, is to introduce a bill today to prohibit the Army from gathering intelligence about

American civilians anywhere, unless the work is connected with background checks of prospective civilian employees or is related to suspected criminal conduct on military installations.

At the height of the domestic espionage program in the United States in the late 1960s, 1,500 plainclothes agents were collecting information. The material was placed in scores of data centers around the country and there were plans for a computerized central data bank. Dissidents of all shades of opinion were observed and information about them recorded, the subcommittee reported.